

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to participate in the second landing site workshop for the 2009 Mars Science Laboratory (MSL).

The process of selecting the MSL landing site began with a first workshop held in Pasadena, CA, in June of 2006. At the workshop, a list of 33 sites was prioritized for imaging by Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO) and other orbiting spacecraft at Mars.

The number of sites for which these new orbital data have been obtained is growing rapidly and it is time to schedule **the second MSL landing site workshop, to be held in Pasadena, CA, on October 23-25, 2007**. The venue will be announced in a subsequent mailing.

The goal of the second workshop will be to narrow the original list of sites to approximately 10-12 primary sites and a number of back-up sites. The format will include oral presentations (to be solicited in a subsequent mailing) and general discussion of the sites.

The MSL landing sites emerging from the second workshop will then be considered in more detail by the MSL Project, Mars Program, and the Science Community. It is expected that additional orbital data will also be obtained for the sites remaining under consideration. There is the possibility that some additional/new sites may be discussed at the workshop, with the expectation that such new sites will be based in part on discoveries related to new data from MRO. Future workshops are planned that would further narrow the list of sites under consideration to a recommended landing site zone and (eventually) precise landing ellipse.

A number of websites provide access to more information on the MSL mission, relevant engineering requirements, landing site selection process, and available data for the proposed sites. Please note there are a number of important changes to the engineering constraints since the first workshop that include a decrease in the latitude range and altitude to between  $\pm 45^\circ$  latitude and below 1 km MOLA-derived elevation, respectively. Websites where this information is posted include:

Descriptions of the MSL mission and a summary of NASA's Mars exploration strategy are available at:

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/msl/overview>

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/mep/mslides/index.html>

<http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov/reports/index.html>

Information on the MSL landing site selection process and sites discussed at the first workshop along with supporting image data can be found at the websites supporting MSL landing site selection activities:

<http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/landingsites/>

<http://webgis.wr.usgs.gov/msl>

Additional images and derived data products can be viewed at:

[http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/HiRISE/hirise\\_images/](http://marsoweb.nas.nasa.gov/HiRISE/hirise_images/) (HiRISE)

<http://themis.asu.edu> (THEMIS daytime, nighttime IR, VIS, and thermal inertia mosaics)

<http://themis.asu.edu/landingsites/> (Decorrelation stretched THEMIS daytime mosaics)

[http://www.msss.com/mars\\_images/moc/guest/](http://www.msss.com/mars_images/moc/guest/) (MOC)

<ftp://psa.esac.esa.int/pub/mirror/MARS-EXPRESS/HRSC/> (HRSC)

Thanks to the folks at MSSH (MOC), THEMIS (ASU and Hawaii), HiRISE (U of A), and HRSC (DLR) who have made these data available to the community in support of landing site activities

All members of the scientific community are encouraged to participate in this important activity. Input from the science community is critical to identification of optimal landing sites for the MSL. We look forward to your continued involvement in these activities!

Sincerely,

John Grant and Matt Golombek

Co-Chairs, Mars Landing Site Steering Committee